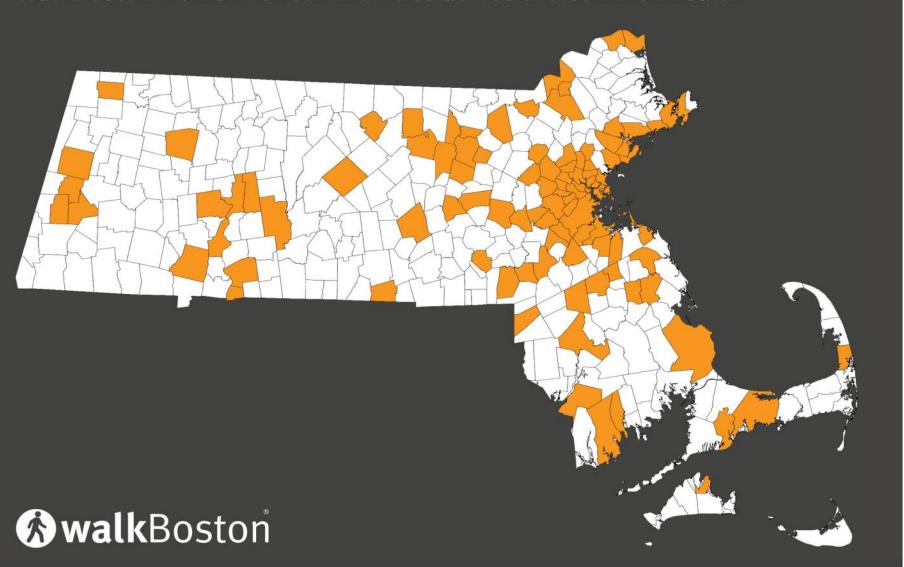
Age-Friendly Walking and Pedestrian Safety

Adi Nochur, WalkBoston MA Community Transportation Coordination Conference May 2, 2017



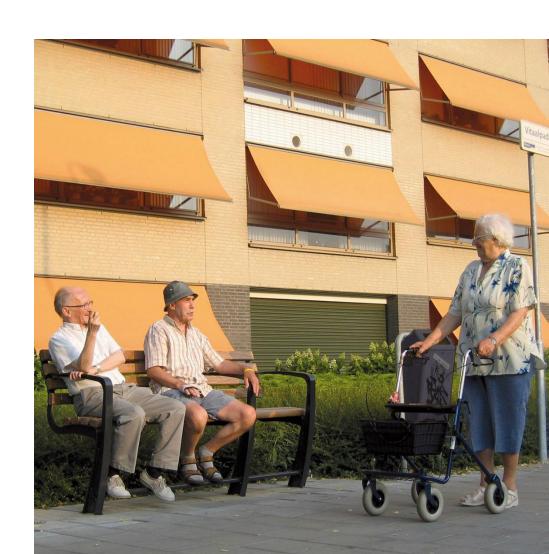
WalkBoston works with communities across the Commonwealth



What is Age-Friendly Walking?

Some considerations

- Sidewalk conditions/maintenance
- ADA compliance
- Benches
- Lighting
- Shade
- Public restrooms
- Traffic speed
- Signal timing
- Street crossing distance
- ...and more!



Age-Friendly Case Studies

- Williamsburg: Healthy Aging and Community Design
- Boston: Age-Friendly Walking

Williamsburg: Healthy Aging







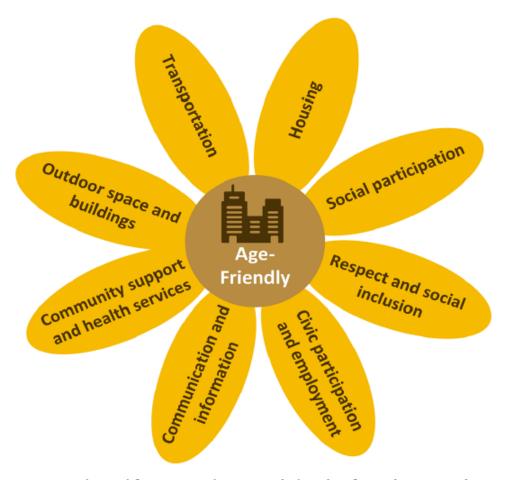






Walkability and Age-Friendly Boston

Improving Boston's Walkability a Priority for Seniors



- Nearly 50% of all listening session recommendations centered on improving Boston's walkability
- Conditions of sidewalks and timing and location of crosswalks are a primary challenge
- Trash and graffiti make walking unpleasant in some areas
- Safety and availability of parks are strengths

Source: Adapted from WHO by S. Harris (Design for Aging Committee, BSA)

Age-Friendly Walking in Boston

 Partnership between WalkBoston, Elderly Commission/Age-Friendly Boston, and other city agencies and community partners to advance safe and comfortable walking for seniors in the City of Boston

Age-Friendly Walking in Boston

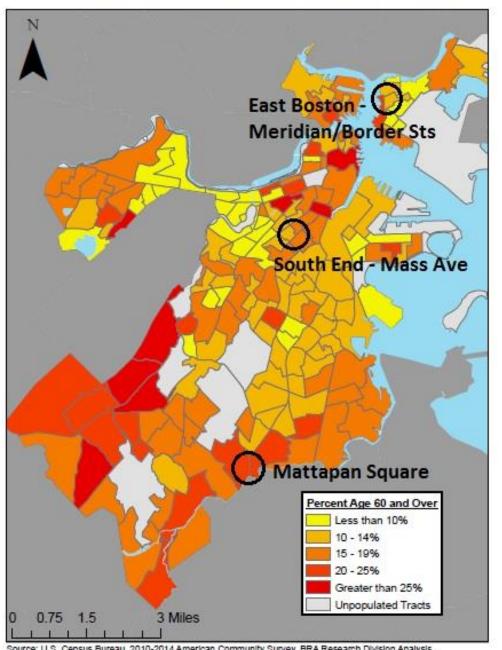
- Partnership between WalkBoston, Elderly Commission/Age-Friendly Boston, and other city agencies and community partners to support safe and comfortable walking for seniors in the City of Boston
- Near-term goal: work from 2016-2018 in three pilot neighborhoods (South End, Mattapan, East Boston) to implement street and sidewalk improvements
- Long-term goal: use lessons learned from pilots to create guidelines for a multi-agency citywide approach to senior walking

Pilot Neighborhoods

- East Boston Meridian/Border Street corridors
- South End Mass Ave corridor
- Mattapan Mattapan Square

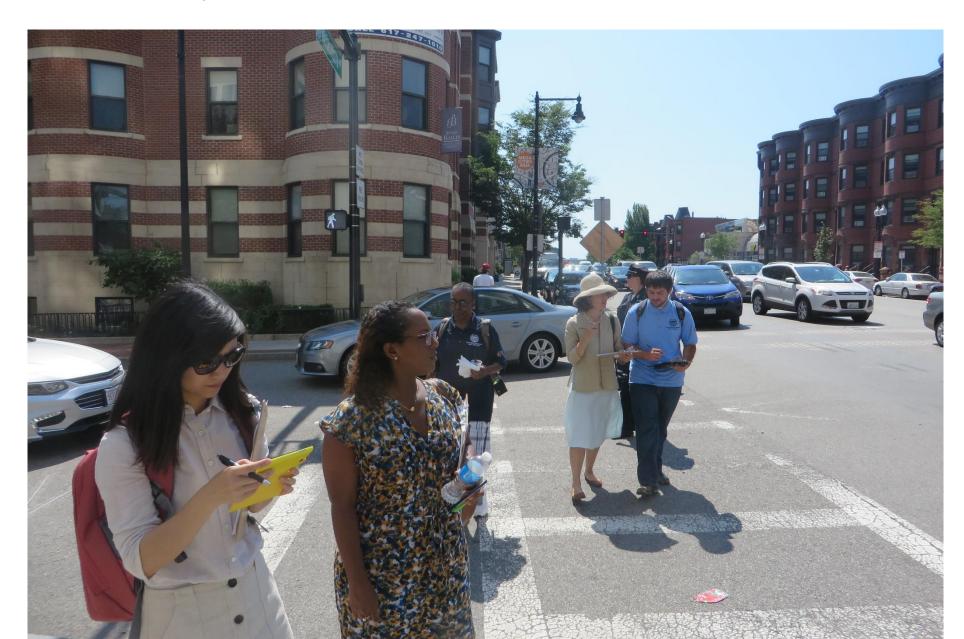
Neighborhoods selected in part based upon racial and economic demographic data (focus on low-income seniors and seniors of color)

Percent of Population Age 60 and Over, 2014



Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis.

Age-Friendly walk audit – South End



Age-Friendly walk audit – Mattapan



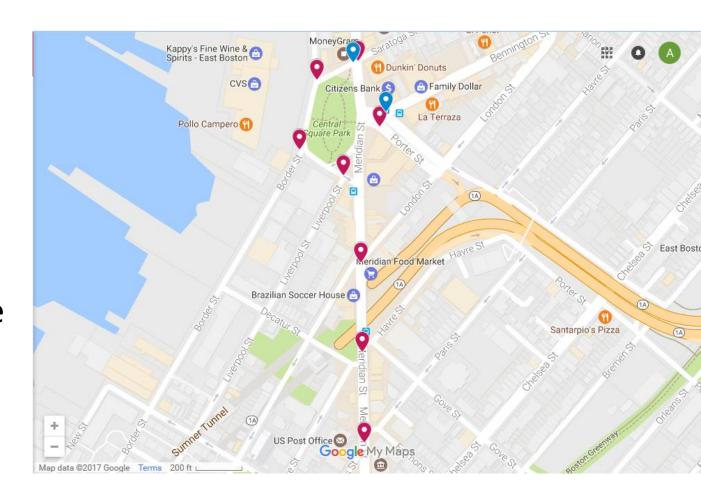
Age-Friendly walk audit – East Boston



Next Steps

 Work with agency/community partners to advance improvements in pilot neighborhoods

 Work with agency partners to create processes for citywide action items



Lessons Learned

- Walkability is critical to seniors' physical and economic mobility and thus to aging in place
- Age-Friendly Walking/Healthy Aging presents a frame to bring new collaborators and diverse stakeholders together
- Directly addressing the needs of vulnerable populations benefits all. <u>Safe and comfortable walking for seniors means safe and comfortable walking for everyone!</u>

Questions?



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